

REMARKS:Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 1, 9-11, 20-22 due to informalities. Accordingly, claims 1, 9-11, 20-22 have been rewritten to include the use of a computing system. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

Claims 1-6, 8-16, 18-23

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 8-16, 18-23 under 35 USC 102(e) as being unpatentable over US Patent Appl. Pub. No. 2002/0035579 to Wang et al. (hereinafter "Wang").

Applicants believe that independent claims 1, 9-11, 20-22 are distinguishable from Wang. Particularly, the claims include the element that user interaction be simulated for navigating a network site, such as traversing several pages on the site. This means that no actual user input is required for navigating from one page to another. Rather, a user can merely enter a request, and the user agent performs some action to interact with the site. As described in the specification of the present application at p. 15, line 27 to p. 16, line 12:

The User Agent 214 is used by other components of the system to provide the actual interaction with a remote website. For example, when replaying a pattern, the SRM communicates with the User Agent via the Connector to provide instructions to the User Agent. The other system components have intelligence built into them that instructs them how to utilize the User Agent. For example, when a user clicks on a button on a page, other components instruct the User Agent to navigate to the desired web page and perform some action, such as filling in a form. The User Agent retrieves the resulting page and returns it to the other components.

By default, the User Agent is not running. A listener (not shown) listens for requests. When the listener receives a request, it creates a new User Agent process on the server and returns an identifier that identifies the User Agent process. Subsequently, client processes use the identifier, go

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to the specific User Agent and instruct it to perform some action. The User Agent performs the action according to the instructions and returns the results of the action.

The operation of the User Agent can be likened to remote controlling navigation of a browser on a remote server. For example, the User Agent acts as an intermediary on a remote server that can be commanded to go online and retrieve content, and then send it for rendering for output on a wireless device.

Remote web sites should not be able to determine whether they are interacting with a human user on a dedicated machine or the User Agent. For example, two different User Agents running on the same server should be able to simultaneously log-in to Hotmail using two different user names (and get two different pages).

In contrast, Wang merely formats content on a page selected by the user for output on a particular user device. The user must actually perform the navigation. As the user navigates through the site, Wang's system transforms the pages for output on the user's device per the transform rules set by the web designer. Nowhere does Wang disclose that the system actually can perform navigation functions.

Thus, a patentable distinction exists between independent claims 1, 9-11, 20-22 and Wang.

Claims 2-6, 8, 12-16, 18-19, and 23 are dependent upon claims 1, 11, and 22 respectively, and therefore includes the limitations of claims 1, 11, and 22. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of claims 2-6, 8, 12-16, 18-19, and 23 is respectfully requested.

Claims 7 and 17

The Examiner has rejected claims 7 and 17 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang in view of US Patent No. 6,477,550 to Balasubramaniam et al. (hereinafter "Balasubramaniam").

Claims 7 and 17 are dependent upon claims 1 and 11, respectively, and therefore includes the limitations of claims 1 and 11. Because Balasubramaniam has only been cited to disclose a COM interface, claims 1 and 11 are believed to be allowable over


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Wang and Balasubramaniam for the same reasons as set forth in the discussion of claims 1 and 11 above. Allowance of claims 7 and 17 is respectfully requested.

In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 971-2573. For payment of any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1351 (Order No. CLICP020).

Respectfully submitted,

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